Advent season begins Sunday, Nov. 30

SOUTHERN CROSS

Serving the Catholic communities of Imperial and San Diego counties

Vol. 75, No. 36 | November 28, 1986 | 35¢

Blacks convene to discuss evangelization

photo by Sam Lucero

VOICES ARE HEARD — Bishop Leo T. Maher tells those assembled for a Nov. 22 black Catholic convocation that blacks should recognize the power they possess. "Most of the time when a black person stands to speak, everyone listens," he said.

Bishop Maher there to answer questions

By Veronica Garcia

LINDA VISTA — "Because we speak English, it was often thought we (blacks) could be evangelized" into the white, English-speaking Catholic community, said Deacon Marvin Threatt at a convocation of black Catholics at the University of San Diego High School gym.

Threatt is chairman of the diocesan Commission of Black Catholics which sponsored the Nov. 22 convocation. Its purpose was to develop methods to evangelize the millions of unchurched blacks.

Information obtained will be used to prepare agenda items for the National Congress of Black Catholics to be held at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. next May.

More than 50 people took part in the convocation that was made up of an orientation, small group discussions and an open forum with Bishop Leo T. Maher.

Father Giles Conwill, the diocese's only black priest, noted that black Catholics have encountered racism from non-black church members throughout U.S. history. "But in spite of the racism and neglect heaped on by this church, we blacks have remained faithful . . . because we love Christ," he said.

The church is slow to adapt black worship styles into the liturgy, he said during a historical overview of black Catholics in the United States. More than just gospel music is needed; black praying and preaching styles also should be incorporated into the Mass.

"You have a power that you do not recognize," said Bishop Maher following the small group discussion reports.

"Most of the time when a black person stands to speak, everyone listens," Bishop Maher said. He cited the black community's opposition to the recently defeated school clinic proposal as a sign of the power blacks possess.

The bishop suggested organizing a speakers bureau to speak for the local black Catholic community.

The many blacks who need evangelizing also can be reached through the catechumenate. This "will bring them a greater appreciation of the Word of God," the bishop said.

After the bishop's remarks, an open forum was held. Questions included how to sensitize non-blacks who work in the black community to black culture; how to improve the black community's sense of ownership of their parishes; and how to improve poor families' access to Catholic education. Several people also suggested that the Diocesan Office should employ blacks.

Father Conwill noted the lack of participation by clergy who work in the black Catholic community. Only two pastors, Msgr. Francis Pattison of St. Rita and Jesuit Father Robert Fambrini of Christ the King, attended the day of reflection.

Seminarians and staff members of the various diocesan departments also should have been present at the convocation. Their participation might have helped them "become more sensitized to black culture," Father Conwill said.

Bishop Maher and Msgr. Pattison said scheduling conflicts may explain the lack of attendance by clergy and diocesan department staff.

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Message on drugs to be read

A unique, non-denominational message on drugs, signed recently by Bishop Leo T. Maher and the two other local Christian bishops, will be presented to an estimated 500,000 San Diegans attending church services this weekend.

Believed to be unprecedented in California, the "joint pastoral" was authored by Bishop Maher, Bishop C. Brinkley Morton of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, and Bishop George D. McKinney, who heads the Southern California Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

It was released to the news media Nov. 7, and read into the minutes of the San Diego City Council meeting Nov. 18.

The three bishops have directed that the message be presented to their respective church members when the Advent season begins this Sunday.

The three church leaders direct some 214 parishes and congregations with memberships totaling 500,000.

Their statement asks San Diegans of all beliefs to use their faith as a tool to eliminate the use of drugs in modern society.

"Saying 'no' to drugs is a start, but not the end to drug abuse," the message begins. "Simply to say 'no' leaves one in a moral void that can only be filled, individually and as a society, by saying 'yes.' "

" 'Yes' to the power of the transcendent being, God our Father;

" 'Yes' to the affirmation of a drug-free and a spirit-filled life;

" 'Yes' to a society that combats the dealers preying on our weaknesses;

" 'Yes' to the education in values that gives meaning and purpose to our existence.

"The tragedy of drug abuse is not simply the statistics of lost lives, increased crime and decreased productivity. The tragedy is the moral erosion of our society that has allowed an abuse of freedom and the enslavement of countless men, women and children in drug dependency."

Bishop Maher said the drug problem goes beyond its ability to ruin individual lives.

"Drugs could easily ruin our society," he

please turn to page 8

Seniors and loving it

Blessed Sacrament parish offers social and educational programs which attract over 100 seniors. See page 3.

Youth Day 1986

Diocesan youth were entertained and challenged at this year's Youth Day. See photos and stories, pages 6 and 7.

Conquering drug abuse

A former substance abuser credits God for helping him overcome a two-year bout with drugs. See page 8.

Local Briefs

Ladies' Guild plans activities

SAN DIEGO — A membership drive is among the activities planned for the upcoming year by the Ladies' Guild of Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala.

With Pope John Paul II's planned visit to California next September and the possible beatification of Father Junipero Serra, the mission's founder, the guild hopes to increase its membership threefold by next spring.

The guild's activities began Nov. 15 with a "Getting to Know You" luncheon. On Dec. 14 all women of the parish are invited to a Christmas party at the mission after the 8 a.m. Mass.

For more information call Sharon Casper, guild president, 571-5786.

Whispering Winds ground-breaking

SAN DIEGO — Whispering Winds, a Christian conference center four miles south of Julian, will hold groundbreaking ceremonies for the first quadruplex cabin Dec. 7, 12:30 p.m., at the site.

Ceremonies will also include Mass followed by a reception. For more information call 265-7878.

Serra Club forms new chapter

SAN DIEGO — Formation of a new Serra Club in the eastern area of San Diego was announced during the Nov. 8 Mass at the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala.

The new San Diego Serra Club, yet to be named, will meet at the mission for 7 a.m. Masses every first and third Fridays of the month, followed by a continental breakfast meeting.

Father Patrick Foley, director of the Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Office and proposed club chaplain who celebrated the liturgy, said that "the seeds planted today will later bring forth a rich harvest of religious vocations, while enhancing the Christian vocation of individual Serrans."

Persons interested in joining the new Serra Club should contact Bill Chartier at 460-5239.

photo by Rebecca M. Moertl

Fallbrook church celebrates jubilee

Bishop Leo T. Maher, pictured with youth from St. Peter Church in Fallbrook, was the principal celebrant at a Mass marking the church's 40th anniversary Nov. 16. During the jubilee Mass he blessed a new ceramic altar mosaic and read a congratulatory message to the parish from Pope John Paul II. Following the Mass, he blessed classrooms of the new parish school and religious education center, St. Peter Academy.

Christmas Center opens

SAN DIEGO — The Community Christmas Center will open at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park Nov. 29, 6 p.m., with a ceremony featuring the Sun Harbor Chorus and organist Robert Plimpton.

The evening will end with the lighting of eight sculptured Christmas scenes, the living Christmas tree and lights throughout Balboa Park.

Nursing society honors USD dean

ALCALA PARK — Dr. Irene S. Palmer, dean of the University of San Diego School of Nursing, recently received the "Chapter Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership" from Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nursing.

Sigma Theta Tau's local chapter, Zeta Mu, will honor Palmer. She has been dean of the nursing school since 1974 when she left the same position at Boston University. She established a graduate nursing program at USD in 1977 and a doctoral program in 1984.

St. Brigid Church music series

SAN DIEGO — St. Brigid parish will present its Advent/Christmas music series beginning Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., with a performance of the San Diego Sinfonietta.

The sinfonietta will feature a 22-member chamber orchestra performing Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."

The Early Music Ensemble of San Diego will perform music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m. The St. Brigid Parish Choir will perform a festival of nine lessons and carols featuring the clergy, Religious and lay readers of the parish on Dec. 14, 4 p.m.

On Dec. 21, 4 p.m., the parish's handbell and youth choirs will team together for the hanging of the greens ceremony in which the church is decorated for Christmas.

The parish's Christmas Eve Mass, 10 p.m., will include music by the parish choir and solo quartet, and feature the Otto Feld String Quintet. The 11:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass will feature the St. Brigid Schola singing "Misa Ad Praesepe (Mass at the Crib)."

The performances are open to the public. For more information call 483-3030.

Seminarians receive ministries

CARAMILLO, Calif. — Two San Diegans were among the 40 seminarians who received ministries from Auxiliary Bishop John Ward of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles during a ceremony at St. John's Seminary.

Joseph Brady, a second-year seminarian from San Rafael parish, was instituted as a lector. Tommie "TJ" Jennings, a 37-year-old Alabama native and former Marine, was instituted as an acolyte.

As a lector, Brady is able to read Scripture during liturgical ceremonies. Jennings will work as a eucharistic minister and serve at the altar when called upon.

Students fast to aid needy

ALCALA PARK — University of San Diego students recently skipped lunch for two weeks and donated their savings to help feed the needy.

Students who eat at the campus cafeteria used their meal cards to indicate each day of fasting. Funds from between 600 and 700 lunch meals were collected, according to Dan Geiger, student coordinator.

Father Mike McKay, campus ministry director, expects the students to raise between $2,000 and $3,000 this year.

On Nov. 23 a collection of canned foods was taken up by the students at two Masses in Founders Hall. Food collected went to families in Southeast San Diego.

USD's hunger awareness program has existed for more than eight years, he said, with fund-raising events on campus assisting OXFAM, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief.

"Last year USD's money was sent to the starving in Ethiopia," he said. "This year I believe it's going to the Philippines."

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Seniors enriched by variety of programs

By Joyce Carr

SAN DIEGO — Where can you find groups of people singing, cooking, playing cards and viewing a film — all at the same time under the same roof? At Blessed Sacrament Church's Over 50 Club.

Its Nov. 20 schedule offered a smorgasbord of activities typical of the weekly sessions.

One corner of the parish hall supplied background music for the gathering of about 50 senior citizens. Guitarist Leonard Noble, ukelele player Dmitri Senoff and three other singers seemed to identify with the lyrics of one of their tunes, "Let the Rest of the World Go By." Other members bobbed their heads in response to the rhythm of the old-time favorites.

Across the room five seniors were engrossed in a card game they called "golf."

The kitchen sent a blend of turkey-dinner fragrances throughout the hall. Trini Taylor and six helpers mashed mountains of potatoes for the Thanksgiving banquet they would serve after the noon Mass.

For a time these sights and sounds escaped some 25 other members who were absorbed in the contemporary film, "Miracle of the Sun" shown in the adjoining parish library. Afterward, Sister Eleanor McNally, CPPS, coordinator of the club and the parish adult education program, led a brief discussion on Our Lady of Fatima's message.

The film "gave me more hope for peace," Frances Gammicchia told the ***Southern Cross***.

photos by Joyce Carr

SING-ALONG — Leonard Noble, center, directs other members of Blessed Sacrament Church's Over 50 Club in singing their theme song. Other musically inclined seniors support their leader — Angelo Scimone, left, Charles Ciampoli, Gwen Thompson, Dimitri Senoff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Claudette Harshberger, right, who conducts the community college program at Blessed Sacrament Senior Center, gives flowers to Ruth Jarmel, left, and Theresa Paine, to celebrate their November birthdays.

FILM RESPONSE — Sister Eleanor McNally, coordinator of the parish's Over 50 Club, elicits response to the film, "Miracle of the Sun."

Participants speak out

Other members gave their impressions of the Over 50 Club.

"It's like family," said Rose Burgio who expressed her pleasure with the activities.

Her sister, Jenny Lombardo agreed. "I love to be with the gang." She is anticipating the group's second bus trip to a colonia in Tijuana to deliver food, clothing and blankets. Lombardo said she was surprised to see the Mexicans there dressed in dirty, ragged clothing, deprived of running water.

Jo Alduenda said she enjoys her responsibilities of collecting fees and keeping attendance records.

Physical fitness claimed one segment of time. Dolores Laughlin led a dozen members in limb-stretching, muscle-strengthening and joint-rotating exercises.

This was followed by a spirited sing-along. Noble introduced the club's theme song, a parody he wrote to "Side by Side." Lupe Amezcua sang a solo in Spanish. A gradual crescendo connected one song to the next and exploded into a rousing rendition of "Rancho Grande" — complete with clapping.

Sister McNally told the ***Southern Cross*** the parish's seniors represent three levels of energy — "go-go, slow-go and no-go." The Over 50 members, who "want to socialize and improve themselves," exemplify the first category, she said. About half of them participate in other parish ministries or volunteer for community service

The five-hour Thursday sessions offer a wide array of activities. Some are requested by members; all are approved by the group, Sister McNally said.

She leads discussions on Scripture readings for the following Sunday. Taylor gives lessons in conversational Spanish. Guest speakers' topics range from Mercy Hospital's "65 Plus" program to the San Diego Organizing Project. A few members sew blankets and clothing for Birthright, an organization that assists needy young mothers.

The parish bus provides easy access to other attractions such as movies, plays, resorts, Padres games and the Del Mar fair.

The Over 50 Club boasts 53 members. After attending six sessions, candidates are officially installed by Sister McNally. They receive badges bearing their names and promise to "help one another enjoy life as we pray together, play together, study together and share with those less fortunate."

Sister McNally sees the club's spiritual, educational, social and service objectives come to life in the members' enthusiastic participation and response. "They have opportunities to imbibe a spirit of love and forgiveness," she said.

Community college program

Some members of the Over 50 Club also attend Tuesday classes sponsored by the San Diego Community College District.

Senoff said he would attend meetings every day if they were held that often.

Claudette Harshberger, a community college instructor, teaches the consumer education class for older adults. Franciscan Sister Myra Greulich is her aide.

This program aims to help participants develop an awareness of the changes that relate to the aging process and learn about resources and skills that enhance independent living.

"It is a comfortable learning environment," Harshberger said. "Seniors are with people who share the same interests."

Her five-hour session includes marketing, current events, physical exercises, singing and talks by guest speakers.

Bargains galore

A typical Tuesday begins with the Senior Marketing program, an economical alternative to supermarket shopping. Participants buy produce, canned goods and other food items at prices 30 percent below retail cost. The program operates on a nonprofit basis; cash and unsold food is returned to the Seniors Marketing store, Harshberger explained.

John Wahl, who has attended the consumer education program four years, said he enjoys weighing and pricing the produce.

The seniors get another bargain at noon — a 50-cent soup-and-roll lunch prepared by Harshberger and volunteers.

However, special occasions call for more elaborate meals. The group's Octoberfest featured sauerbraten, potato pancakes, applesauce and German chocolate cake. Recorded German music added to the ambience.

Public invited

The community college sessions are open to the public. Parishioners comprise about half the enrollment of 75, Sister Greulich said. The parish is "glad to supply the facility for people not of our faith," she added.

Last week's guest speaker was Dottie Gresto, educational consultant for Telesis II of California. She acquainted the group with her agency's senior peer counseling program. It is designed to minimize the abuse of prescription drugs by seniors and to promote healthy lifestyles among seniors.

The group has also heard talks on air pollution, safety, financial planning, health maintenance organizations and various physical and psychological ailments.

For some participants, the Tuesday and Thursday programs have opened doors to new interests and horizons. Father William Mooney, pastor and initiator of the programs, said they build community among members and provide "social outlets for getting to know and appreciate their neighbors."

Michael G. Kielty
M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.A.C.S., F.A.C.O.G., K.C.*H.S.

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Viewpoints

Letters

Role of women

Having read a recent letter in your paper about the role of women in the church, I would like to voice my comments on the subject as a man.

First of all, I do not see where the role of women should be more important today in the church than it has been in its historic development. I do not see where it should be more important, because it has always been important.

Look at the first two American saints, who were both women. Mother Frances Cabrini and Elizabeth Seton, whom I believe were responsible for development of charitable institutions and Catholic schools. Look to Mother Teresa and her influence in the church as well as out of the church.

Look at all of the women saints in the church and I might even wager they outnumber men saints from what I have read about them.

Perhaps you might want to look to the person, who, I believe, is largely responsible for the type of equality so many women in this country believe they should have today. His name is Vladimar Ilyich Lenin, the founder of the Communist state.

"So that woman may acquire her complete freedom," said Lenin in addressing the workers of Moscow at their Congress of 1919, "so that she may obtain an effective equality with men, she must participate in the general production of work. In countries that have a capitalistic regime, the professional duties of woman are not compatible with the duties of motherhood. But in Russia, because we have given the worker-mother a particular favorable status, we have demonstrated that the opposite is true. We have created institutions which permit woman to fulfill at the same time her duties as a worker and as a mother."

E.D. Flournoy
San Diego

Considerately yours . . .

Perusal of various church bulletins indicates that persons planning marriage must arrange for a series of lessons months prior to the event. Likewise, when the inevitable babies come along, similar counseling sessions are required prior to baptism.

May I suggest that a most significant element is not covered in the above courses. I refer to Rudimentary Courtesy or Basic Manners.

Since so many of the young parents of today were never exposed to civility, gentility or home manners in their formative years, it is too much to expect of them today when their children are a boisterous annoyance to other parishioners who are trying to participate in the Mass.

El McDonough
Poway

Make jubilee special

Soon God's people will be celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of San Diego. What a magnificent opportunity to openly share the true meaning of our faith with all the citizens of this historic city, where Father Serra first planted the seed of our faith in California.

What a marvelous day it would be if all Catholic churches in the county would declare a day of prayer and thanksgiving and action. The occasion could be one of total commitment by all parishes to reach-out to their individual communities and show the true way of the Catholic faith.

The possibilities are limitless, i.e..

- Start early in the morning and ring our church bells each hour on the hour.
- Offer special services for prayer and thanksgiving.
- Individual parishes take a special collection for the poor and disabled of our city.
- Visit hospitals, convalescent homes and shut-ins to show concern and caring.
- Publicly pray for peace, justice and understanding among all faiths.
- Culminate the day with a gigantic Mass at the Civic Center or the stadium.

This is a time for rejoicing by all Catholics and the perfect opportunity to involve all the people within our parishes. Catholics could be the extension of Jesus and a sign for the times to the city of San Diego.

Dick Reid
San Diego

All letters are subject to editing and must be signed with full name, address, and telephone number in order to be considered for publication. Mail letters to: Southern Cross, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138.

Pontius' Puddle

Bishops' right, bishops' duty

The Yardstick
by
Msgr. George G. Higgins

Five years in the making, the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy was adopted at the bishops' recent meeting in Washington. Within days, several newspapers, including the ***Wall Street Journal,*** ***The Washington Times*** and the ***Detroit News,*** launched counterattacks. Other prestigious publications, notably ***The New York Times,*** have strongly supported the document, however.

Debate about the specifics of the pastoral is all to the good. In fact, the more the better.

One has the right to expect, however, that people who write about the pastoral will first take the trouble to read it. I doubt that all of its critics in the media have done so. Many seem to have rushed into print on the basis of fragmentary news summaries or simply parroted or paraphrased the critique released by Michael Novak and William Simon.

It is frivolous at this late date for a major paper like the ***Detroit News*** to argue that the bishops ought to stick to the "spiritual" and stop "dabbling in the secular world of politics and economics." This is an old argument, and the News is not the only one to make it.

Twenty years ago, to cite but one example, the late Sir Arnold Lunn, a distinguished British author and convert to Catholicism who wore his religion on his sleeve almost belligerently and had a flair for muscular polemics, went the ***Detroit News*** one better.

Writing in the ***London Tablet,*** Lunn said that "an active and mischievous minority" of American Catholics were leading the church astray. He was particularly indignant about those supporting the "War on Poverty." Perhaps, he wrote, "the most pernicious haeresis in modern (American) Catholicism is the allusion that the only Catholic activity of importance is social work among the poor."

In the final analysis, however, U.S. Catholic preoccupation — or lack of it — with the plight of the poor was beside the point. Lunn's essential point was that preoccupation with economic and social problems was "evidence of declining belief in the primary mission of the church, the salvation of souls and the conversion of those who now reject the supernatural."

I mean no disrespect to Lunn's memory when I say this is a classic example of "haeresis" — not heresy (to quote his own definition) in the sense of the repudiation of defined dogmas, but "haeresis" in the sense of choosing one aspect of Catholicism and ignoring other equally important aspects.

Lunn, as an overly solicitous watchdog of Catholic orthodoxy and thus a careful student of official Catholic sources, must have known, even if the ***Detroit News*** does not, that there are umpteen directives in umpteen church documents on the danger of drawing such a sharp dichotomy between spiritual and temporal duties.

Two years before Lunns' article appeared, Vatican Council II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World cut the ground out from under him. "They are mistaken," it said, "who knowing that we have here no abiding city but seek one which is to come, think that they may therefore shirk their earthly responsibilities. For they are forgetting that by the faith itself they are more than ever obliged to measure up to these duties, each according to his proper vocation."

"Nor, on the contrary, are they any less wide of the mark," it went on to say, "who think that religion consists in acts of worship alone and in the discharge of certain moral obligations, and who imagine that they can plunge themselves into earthly affairs in such a way as to imply that these are altogether divorced from the religious life. This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age."

The ***Detroit News,*** please copy!

Msgr. George Higgins is a regular columnist for NC News Service.

Purpose of Prop. 63 is obvious

By Ramon Oceguera

Voter acceptance of Proposition 63 stands as tribute to the lack of unity and political power that prevails among non-English speakers in our state.

In no way should we attempt to disguise the real objective of this proposition: to defranchise an entire group of people solely on their inability to communicate in English. Proposition 63 ignores the difficulties involved in learning a new language, especially for people who are functionally illiterate even in their own langauge, as is the case with some Latin Americans.

Most of our immigrants want to learn English, but there is a great gap between dreams and reality: job commitments, lack of child care facilities, and budgetary constraints (in Los Angeles County alone people stand in long lines for hours, just to be told that there is no more room for them in English classes).

A new language and culture cannot be taught in a vacuum. Those who romanticize our past forget the high crime rates and social disorganization that existed among many European immigrants.

We inherited from Imperial Britain the contempt for foreigners and this proposition will only give greater impetus for treating those who are different from others with the condescension and patronizing air with which many of us ask the question: Do you speak English?

But there is wisdom in God even if there is no wisdom in men and he, hanging from the cross, reminds us that not all evil is attributable to malice. Ignorance is also a culprit: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

Ramon Oceguera is a member of Our Lady of Angels parish in San Diego.

SOUTHERN CROSS
(ISSN 0745-0257)
Official newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego. Published weekly on Fridays from September-May, except weeks of December 25 and January 1, and biweekly June-August. Subscription price: $15.

Publisher ..... Bishop Leo T. Maher
Editor ..... Bill Finley

Diocesan Office
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Australians greet pope enthusiastically

By John Thavis
NC News Service

Pope John Paul II was greeted by sunshine and enthusiasm in Australia, the fifth of six nations he was to visit in 13 days.

The pope celebrated Mass Nov. 24 for 100,000 people — the biggest crowd ever assembled in the Australian capital of Canberra — under warm spring sunshine and blue skies.

The first five days of the trip were marked by rain and small crowds.

Pope John Paul began the longest trip of his pontificate at the rate of a country a day, visiting the slums of Bangladesh Nov. 19, urging affluent Singapore Christians to help the poor and participating in tribal welcoming ceremonies in Fiji. Before flying to Australia, he spent Nov. 22 and 23 in New Zealand, where he urged the Catholic minority to take clear public positions against increasing secularization, religious indifference and abortion.

The pope was to spend a week in Australia, and before returning to Rome Dec. 1 he was scheduled to stop in the Seychelles, an island-nation in the Indian Ocean.

Hours after landing in Australia, the pope recited a litany of praise for the country's spirit and its way of life.

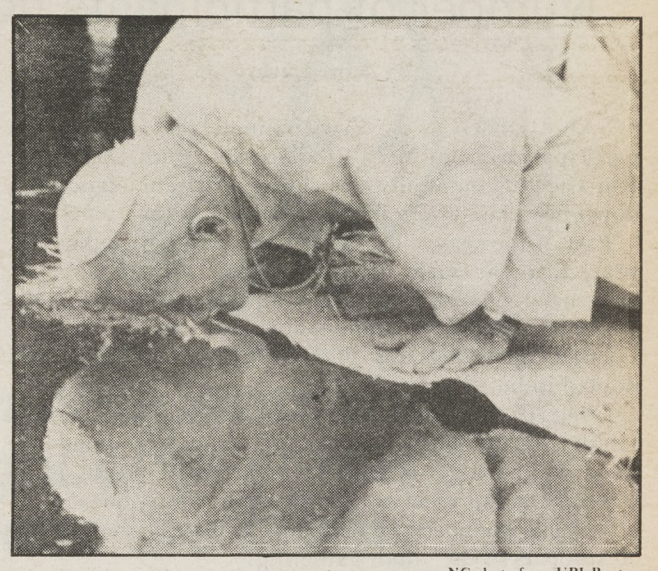
At the same time, he urged Catholics to use their votes to protect life "from the moment of conception," an apparent reference to abortion and embryonic research in the country.

"We speak a common language of respect for the human person," the pope said in an address at the House of Parliament.

In a reference to heavy government subsidies of Catholic schools and hospitals, the pope lauded the way church and state institutions work "side by side" to guarantee freedom of choice and better care.

But during an afternoon Mass, the pope condemned violence against human life "in all stages of its development."

He sounded a similar note in his talk to government leaders at Parliament, telling them that one basis for civilization is "reverence for human life from the moment of conception and throughout every stage of its earthly pilgrimage."



NC photo from UPI-Reuter

REFLECTION OF FAITH — Pope John Paul II kisses a rainy runway on his arrival at Nausori Airport in Suva, Fiji. It was the third stop on his six-nation tour.

Luke's Gospel is pertinent today, says priest

By Rosemary Johnston
Special to *Southern Cross*

SAN DIEGO — The Gospel of Saint Luke has particular appeal to people today not only because of the audience Luke addresses, but in view of the kinds of issues he addresses, according to Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS.

Father LaVerdiere, a nationally recognized Scripture scholar and author, shared some of his insights about Luke's Gospel during a recent interview with ***Southern Cross***.

An adjunct professor of New Testament studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Father LaVerdiere was in San Diego to deliver talks sponsored by the Institute for Christian Ministries at the University of San Diego.

He gave a four-day seminar on the Lukan Gospels, a one-day seminar on eucharistic themes in the Gospel and an afternoon seminar on the Lukan Our Father.

Luke is open ended. "He opens up ministry further and further as Christianity spreads. Instead of setting up boundaries, Luke knocks them down," said Father LaVerdiere, editor of ***Emmanuel Magazine*** which focuses on spirituality for those active in ministry.

The New York priest said that Luke was always sensitive to new people, new cultures and women. He defined the four issues of Luke's time as slave/free, rich/poor, men/women, and Jew/Gentile. "These issues are very much alive today," Father LaVerdiere said. "No one goes after these issues like Luke does."

The indigents in Luke's Gospel, he said, are human sacraments of poverty we all have before God. "In Luke's time, the rich and the poor lived close together," many times in the same building, he noted.

"The poor were not isolated and invisible as they are in our country today, 'ghettoized,'" he said. While there are few slaves in civilized countries today, people in other parts of the world often live in conditions akin to slavery, he added.

Because Luke was a Gentile, he did not spend a lot of time in the all-male synagogue environment, Father LaVerdiere said. "He was around women more and he recognized the role they played in the life of Jesus."

Today Father LaVerdiere sees the Jew/Gentile issue as more of a conflict between Christians and non-Christians such as Hindu and Moslems. "I believe that the principal task for the third millenium is evangelization," continued the priest. "That means we have to be able to understand what it means to be Chinese."

The author of several books, Father LaVerdiere's next major project will be a book on fundamentalism. "It will be for non-fundamentalists. I intend to show how fundamentalism is not compatible with Christian life."

The next presentation by the Institute for Christian Ministries will be a series of three Thursday night talks about the infancy narratives based on the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke. Rev. Jack Lindquist, a Lutheran minister and USD faculty member, will be guest speaker. For more information, phone 260-4784.

Blacks hold convocation

continued from page 1

Bishop Maher said efforts are being made to sensitize seminarians to black culture. He cited a black bishop's one-week visit to the seminary this year.

Communication and dialogue are two ways of exposing pastors who work in the black community to this minority group's problems, Bishop Maher said.

Although parish councils are advisory only, they may be another way to improve parishioners' communication with pastors, Bishop Maher said. All parishes should have such councils because other diocesan communication tools, such as ***Southern Cross***, are unable to fulfill all the information needs of the diocese, he added.

Audrey Chung, president of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, said steps are being taken to improve communication between the DPC, deanery level councils and parish councils. These are aimed at eliminating the breakdowns in communication which now occurr.

Threatt inquired how churches with black members could have parish celebrations for Black History Month in February and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Jan. 15.

Most ethnic functions occur because a particular ethnic group asks for them, the bishop said. "Organize it yourselves. You can get people to come where the pastor may not be able to," he added.

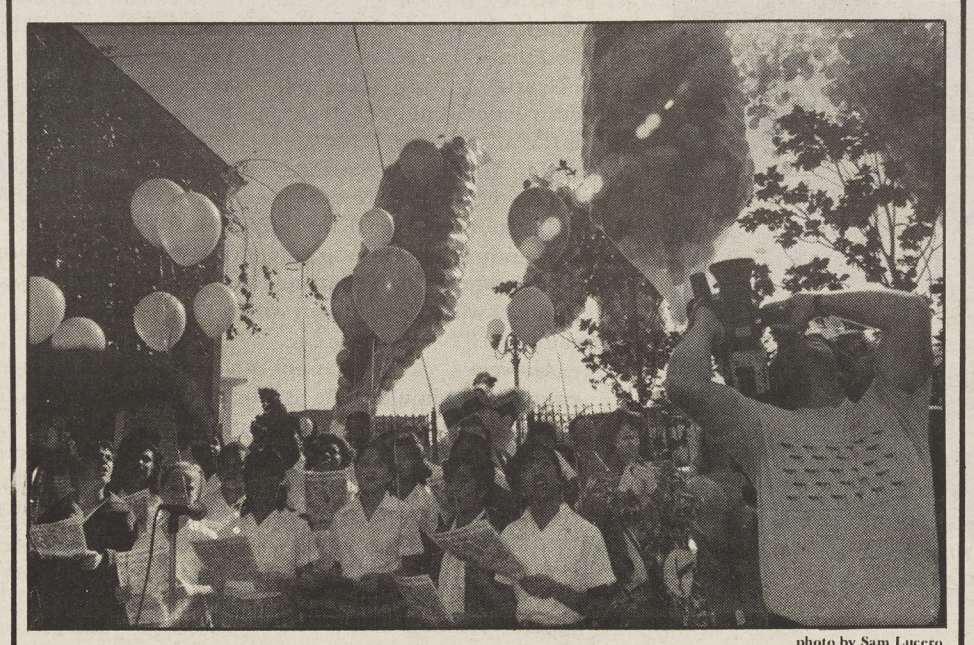


photo by Sam Lucero

Balloons fill San Diego skies

Choir members from St. Rita's School look upward as thousands of helium-filled balloons are released at Gaslamp Quarter Nov. 22. The event, 'Balloons Across San Diego,' was duplicated at 10 other sites in San Diego County as a fund-raiser for the new St. Vincent de Paul Center.

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1600 youth attend event

Number of participants down from last year

By Sam Lucero

SAN DIEGO — Approximately 1,600 youth participated in the Nov. 19 Diocesan Youth Day at the San Diego Community Concourse. The attendance was down from last year's figure of some 2,000.

Part of the reason for the decline was that, unlike last year, Catholic high school freshmen and sophomores were not required to attend, said Stella Gonzales of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Those attending this year were there because they wanted to be, she said.

Over 200 Imperial Valley youth traveled the 100-mile distance in five buses, to increase last year's attendance from that area. Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in El Centro was represented by 120 youth, said Gonzales.

Vincent Memorial High School in Calexico sent about 50 students to the youth gathering.

Brian Wong, diocesan youth consultant for the Imperial Valley, said that only two buses were needed to transport students to San Diego last year. He credited positive feedback from last year's event as reason for Imperial Valley's increased numbers.

"That's a good sign," Wong said of the boom in the valley's attendance. "It shows we're having quality material and speakers."

Wong said he was also pleased with the number of Hispanic youth attending this year's conference. About 15 Hispanics from Brawley participated in the workshops; none attended last year, he added.

Gonzales also noted that response from Hispanic youth regarding workshops was "wonderful. We had nothing but good comments."

Workshop subjects included a variety of topics: detection and prevention of suicide among friends, how Jesus communicates to people, church beliefs that youth find difficult to understand, a Christian view of intimacy and sexuality, following Christ down Madison Avenue, and what it means to be Roman Catholic.

Nationally recognized youth rally speakers Father Liam Kidney and Jerry Goebel spoke to the teens at general assemblies. Goebel, a musician, also gave a concert during the day which had students dancing, singing and hugging in the aisles.

Youth Day concluded with an afternoon liturgy in the Concourse auditorium. Presiding celebrant was Bishop Leo T. Maher; concelebrants included Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert Chavez and 32 other priests.

The entrance procession featured about 20 youth carrying banners made by various parish youth groups. Three banners were recognized as the most outstanding at the conclusion of the Mass.

Father Edward Kaicher, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, awarded first place to the youth group from St. Rita parish, second place to Ascension parish and third place to Precious Blood parish.

Homilist at the Mass was Father Kidney. He told the young men and women that sometimes love is not expressed in the most obvious ways, such as when parents punish their children.

He said that Christians are a forgiving people and that the world needs to know this. "They will never know unless you tell them."

"We are challenged to reach out . . . and say 'I love you.' For God's sake, don't hold on to grudges," he said. "Be willing to forgive and let go. Let us tell the world that everyone is forgiven."

In his closing remarks at the Mass, Bishop Maher said he saw in the youth "a desire in your hearts to be brothers and sisters in the Lord." He said they were gifted because of their willingness to be brothers and sisters. "We see you continually growing — physically, psychologically and spiritually. In that growth, recognize that you have the power to give those gifts to others," Bishop Maher said.

ENJOYING LIFE — Youth Day participants enjoy a game of limbo during

People need to be loved, Father Kidney says

By Joyce Carr

SAN DIEGO — Father Liam Kidney's Youth Day audience responded to his talk with repeated whistles, cheers and thundering applause.

The priest spoke on people's need to be loved and to know that Jesus loves them. He spiced his presentation by dramatizing events in his youth which illustrated his own insecurity and need for love.

Father Kidney is principal of St. Bernard High School in Playa Del Rey in the Los Angeles archdiocese. The Irish-born priest is a nationally known speaker at youth events.

"Everyone needs to be accepted and loved," he said, but they don't admit it. He cited the high suicide rate among teen-agers as evidence that many youth feel uncared-for.

High school cliques also show that youth feel unloved, he added. He categorized some of these groups: the jocks and cheerleaders, the radical group in jeans and T-shirts, and the misfit "weirdos" who criticize the other cliques. This segregation "doesn't speak of love, caring and forgiveness," he said.

He cautioned his listeners against earning other people's love by catering to them. "If you have to bargain for love, it ain't love," he emphasized.

"There is nothing you can do to earn Jesus' love. You are so valuable that Jesus stepped forward in total innocence . . . and died so we could live," he said.

The priest said a youth's life is complicated today by the widespread abuse of alcohol, drugs and sex.

Honesty poses another problem, he said. "The older we get, the less honest we become." He illustrated this by contrasting sincere confessions with those he described as "instant replays of events."

"We have a terrible problem in being honest with sins regarding sexuality," he said. This is regretful because "penance is a sacrament of love and forgiveness."

After Father Kidney's talk, three girls rushed up to him with admiring words about his message.

Teresa Melendrez of St. Margaret Mary parish, Brawley, shared their enthusiasm. She said his talk was funny and given "from a teen-ager's point of view."

Father Liam K

Keynote speaker emphasizes the 'good news' of youth

By Veronica Garcia

SAN DIEGO — "You are the good news," some 1,600 youth were told at the opening session of Youth Day Nov. 19.

To highlight the day's theme, "The Good News Is You," keynote speaker Ralph West said the youth were special because they were chosen by God.

West is director of student ministries at Trinity Baptist Church in Santa Barbara.

"There are some things we have no choice about," such as the force of gravity and how fast others drive on the freeway, West said. He told his listeners they also had no say in being chosen by God. "God chooses us without reservations.

"It is often difficult for us to believe there is anything good about us," the speaker said. Although most people have heard that they are the good news, few respond positively to the idea.

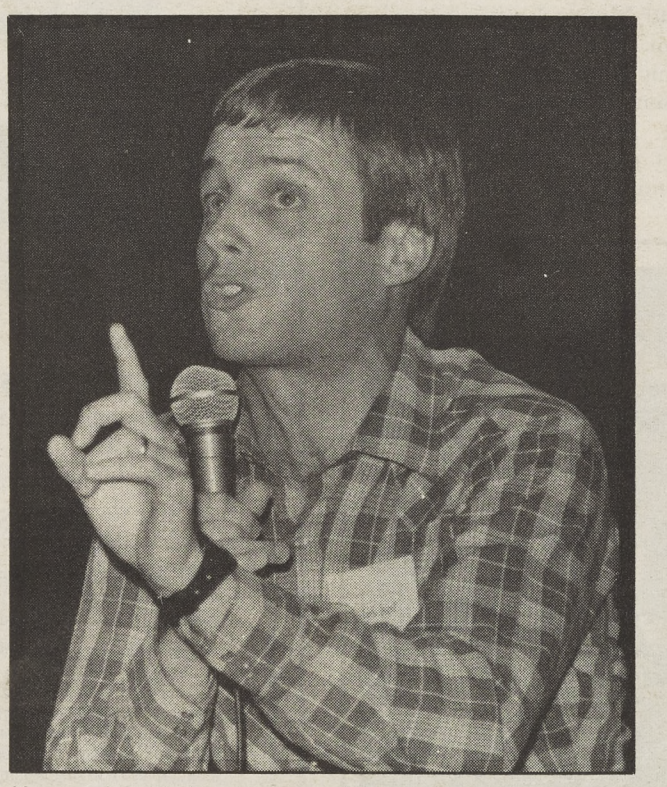
West asked the youth to consider ways their daily lives demonstrate being the good news.

He said he has never met anyone who does not want to lose, gain or rearrange some weight. "But think what God could have done with this thing we call a physical body." He drew laughter when he said that God could have placed people's nostrils at the top of their noses.

God is best at giving, he said. "He gave us life. . . . You must decide to give your life back to God."

"Don't be afraid to take what you've learned today" and apply it at home and school. Friends and family may be apathetic to the message, but youth should not let fear keep them from spreading the good news. "Ask for God's help," West said.

"We don't make good decisions in a panic," he added. Therefore, youth should "stand firm" when fear grips them. "You can't do well or make good choices if you're running away."



Youth should demonstrate that they are the 'good news' in their daily lives, said keynote speaker Ralph West.

Caring youth can help

By Joyce Carr

SAN DIEGO — Penny Banks brought her workshop audiences face to face with the second largest killer of youth — suicide.

Banks, a former program coordinator for the diocesan youth office, is founder and director of Ministries Unlimited that provides training for youth leaders.

Caring, responsible youth can usually prevent self-destruction among their peers, she said, adding that Jesus is the source of their power. "He calls you to freedom . . . and to liberate others from the jail of their own isolation. When teen-agers are desperate they turn to each other."

Banks emphasized the importance of identifying and befriending potential suicide victims who may be unpopular and neglected. Alerting their parents, counselors and teachers will provide them with a "support network," she said.

However, adults cannot give the same support as youths who should serve as a bridge between the troubled person and their peers, she said.

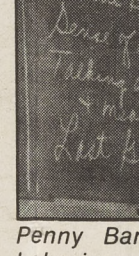
Some suicide plans can be aborted in crisis situations, the speaker said. She gave several pointers for dealing with suicidal people who telephone a friend about their readiness to die.

• Keep them on the telephone. Learn their whereabouts and how they will self-destruct.

• Record this information and hand it to someone nearby who can obtain help. If alone, use attention-attracting devices to bring people to you.

• Prolong the conversation until the caller receives help.

Banks urged her audience to look for signs c



Penny Ban

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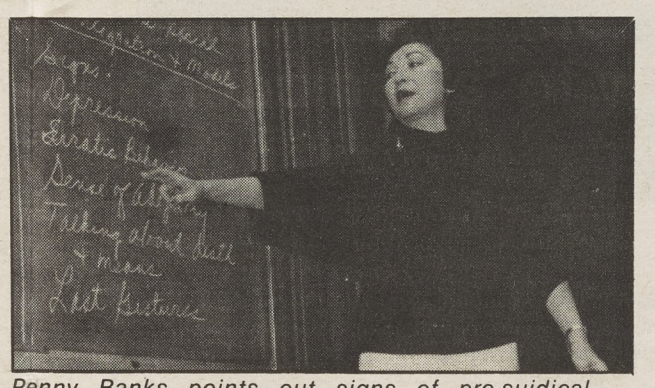
Father Liam Kidney: 'You are so valuable that Jesus stepped forward in total innocence . . . and died so we could live.'

n help their self-destructive peers



Penny Banks points out signs of pre-suidical behaviors.

suicidal behavior:

- Extreme depression causing an inablity to eat and sleep.
- Erratic behavior manifested by extreme high and low mood changes.
- A sense of inadequacy in believing one cannot succeed at anything.
- Talking about death and suicide methods.
- Last gestures performed calmly, such as giving away prized possessions.

Suicide is shocking because "humans cherish life," Banks said. She explained this apparent contradiction in values by addressing some causes of suicide.

An imbalance between tension and relationships can lead to self-destruction, she said. Tension, a positive motivating force in life which occurs among people living together, becomes negative when it is extreme, she said.

Relationships require a "balance between needing people and being independent," she continued. Boy-girl relationships can result in overdependency and losing one's identity. This causes excessive tension and possible feelings of isolation and aggression, she said.

In extreme cases, aggression turned outward can lead to homicide; aggression turned inward can motivate suicide.

An identity crisis can also precipitate suicide, Banks said. This problem occurs when people do not determine "what they are going to be in this society."

She contrasted roles of men and women in the 1950s. Women found their identity in being housewives and mothers; men were expected to be strong, unfeeling and good financial providers.

"Men and women in the 1980s can have the best of both worlds," she said, referring to today's wider acceptance of alternative roles for both sexes.

Inability to cope with loss is another cause of suicide, Banks said. When death brings physical loss, "we must allow ourselves to mourn. Value life enough to miss it when it's gone."

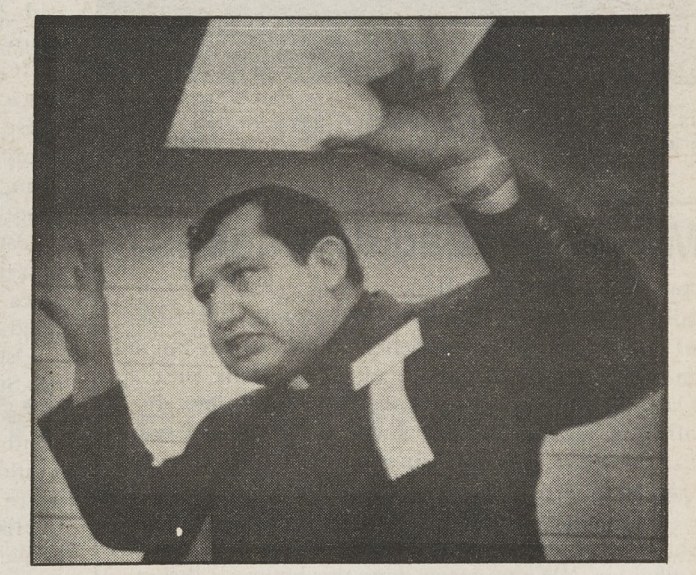
A sense of inadequacy can also foster suicidal tendencies, she said. "Expectation levels must be balanced between what others expect of us and what we can do. We must know our limitations" and not "allow others to batter us with their expectations."

Banks cautioned against feeling guilty when one's best efforts to prevent a suicide have failed. "Allow yourselves the right to mourn" and share your grief with the victim's relatives, she advised.

She urged the youth to use "wisdom, love and prayer" in befriending younger siblings of the deceased — likely prosects for suicide. "This is living out the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan," she said. "As human beings, our job is to give one another hope."

Youth Day 1986 — THE GOOD NEWS IS

Spanish workshop highlights youth's role in the family



Young people can help remove the 'darkness' that problems bring to their homes, said Jesuit Father Anastacio Rivera.

By Veronica Garcia

SAN DIEGO — Youth Day participants who attended one of four Spanish workshops were told they could be the chain that links their families with God.

Each family member reacts differently to problems that often cause "darkness" to descend on one's home, explained Jesuit Father Anastacio Rivera, superior for the Diocese of Orange Jesuit community and director of Hispanic apostolate in Los Angeles.

Many times youth, who often feel the most defenseless and alone, prefer to leave their homes instead of trying to resolve their families' problems, he said during his talk on "The Family."

The priest said youth should try to find common ground with other family members, suggesting life, grace and God as examples.

The speaker noted that his audience was at an age at which they begin to feel physically attracted to others, especially members of the opposite sex. Youth need to share their love with their families. "We need to return affection to the traditionally affectionate Hispanic family," he said.

"It's up to you to return love to your family," Father Rivera said. He suggested bringing flowers to family members as one way to demonstrate affection.

He told the youth not to put off telling their families they love them, lest death rob them of the opportunity to do so.

"Nothing escapes God's attention," said Alfredo Gamez, who works with Young Life, a non-denominational group that counsels Hispanic youth in Tolleson, Ariz.

"There are many things that we should do but don't," Gamez said during his Spanish workshop on "Hispanic Youth in the United States." Failure to accomplish these tasks creates fear and anxiety within us Christians.

He noted that 106 hours a week are required to satisfy the human neccesities of working, sleeping, and eating, leaving 62 "extra" hours per week. "What do we do with this time?" he asked.

Youth should spend this time studying and preparing for the future. "If we don't think about what we will do the day after tomorrow, when it arrives we will have nothing," Gamez said.

The Bible states that "it is only by the sweat of one's brow" that a person will obtain life's neccessities and more, he said, noting that life's basic needs cost a lot of money. He told his young audience to consider the time it has taken their parents to obtain what they possess.

Success and failure are established by law, Gamez said. "We don't fail because we're Mexican, but because we don't think and we don't want to work," he said.

He reviewed a list of 31 reasons why people fail, noting that to succeed a person need only do the opposite of these. Among these were lack of a well-defined purpose in life, insufficient education, lack of self-discipline and procrastination.

Faith saved youth from drugs

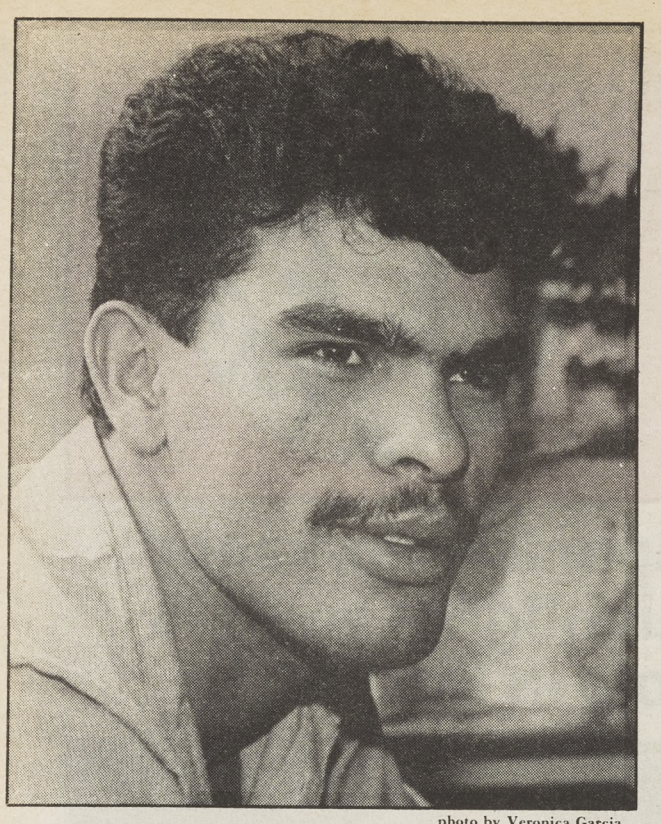


photo by Veronica Garcia

Luis Osuna, a former drug abuser, says he has 'a new life with the Lord.'

By Veronica Garcia

SAN DIEGO — The grace of God enabled Luis Osuna to escape from drugs.

God's instrument of salvation, Osuna says, was a girl who led him to God and away from drugs.

Today, instead of "hanging out" with his friends in Chicano Park, Osuna reads the Bible, sings in a choir and is a prayer group member.

A 21-year-old Logan Heights resident, Osuna began abusing drugs as a high school senior when he accepted a marijuana cigarette from a friend. He remembers that his teachers, once friendly toward him, rejected him after he began abusing drugs.

For two years drugs "had a hold on" him. He abused marijuana, alcohol and cocaine.

Then he met the girl who led him to change his life. He initially wanted to get romantically involved with her, but she would spend their time together "talking about God."

Now he realizes that he "experienced true friendship" with her. "The Holy Spirit has helped me understand many things."

"God began to change me. . . . I began to feel the grace of God," he says.

He quit the job he held then because "there were too many drugs" being used there. "I wanted to get away from (this job) because my mind was too weak to stay away from (drugs) at that time."

Osuna no longer spends Friday, Saturday and Sunday partying. "I get no satisfaction" from parties. He has since realized these parties diminished rather than fulfilled him.

Osuna often spends weekends at retreats and sings with the St. Mary Church choir in National City.

Several weeks ago he gave his testimony at a Hispanic youth retreat. "Before I couldn't talk in a group because I would get nervous." He thanks God for allowing him to share his experiences.

His family relationships also have changed. Since his conversion, he no longer yells at his mother. He recalls that his family tried to get him away from drugs. "My mother cried a lot then, but I didn't care."

He now wishes to be the instrument of salvation for his family. "I want to get them to follow God, but I realize I can't force them. They have to choose." He has invited family members to Bible studies and his prayer group.

"I want to continue what I am doing as long as God gives me life. I want to help people. I feel the need to learn more about God," he says, adding that he soon hopes to join a Bible study group.

The diocesan youth office staff has also helped Osuna in his quest to discover God. "I want to help others the way they have helped me," he says.

Osuna is glad he participated in Youth Day last week. The talks he attended on the Eucharist and the family gave useful information to help young people decide what they really want to do with their lives.

Although there are many drug abusers in his neighborhood, Osuna says he has not found it difficult to stay free of drugs. A "live-and-let-live" attitude exists here, he says. "If you don't mess with them, they don't mess with you."

"If you want to get off drugs, you have to take the first step. . . .But if you want to let yourself become (a drug abuser), a nobody. . . an empty person, it depends on you," he says.

Although he is currently unemployed, Osuna knows he "will survive because God gives to us when we ask him. I have a new life with the Lord. I have more energy to fight for the future."

"I'm going to come out okay (because) God is leading me and I'm behind him," he says.

Message read at Masses

continued from page 1

submitted. "It's a disease that attacks the very roots of our social and moral beliefs. This has become a major, major problem for all of us. This isn't a Catholic issue, or even a Christian issue. It's affecting all people everywhere, and all of us owe it to ourselves to rid ourselves of this terrible tragedy."

Because the problem is non-denominational, the three local bishops agreed a joint statement was called for. "We've never done this before," Bishop Maher said, "but we've never been faced with a problem like this before. Unusual problems demand unusual solutions, and we are hoping this is a step in the right direction. We are hoping all San Diegans, regardless of their faith, will join us."

In Loving Memory

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commend the spirits of these beloved ones who are gone before us into the realm of Thy eternal happiness and peace. Amen.

LOUIS L. REBOLLEDO Funeral Mass: November 13, 1986 at Blessed Sacrament Church.

JOHN SOUSA, JR. Funeral Mass: November 15, 1986 at St. Agnes Church.

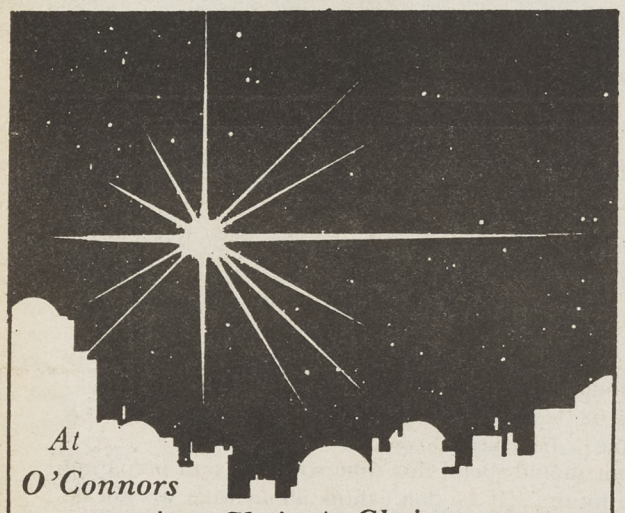
PAUL HEMUS Funeral Mass: November 17, 1986 at Blessed Sacrament Church.

CYRIL LEONARD BULLEY Funeral Mass: November 18, 1986 at Holy Spirit Church.

WILLIAM ZIMMER Funeral Mass: November 17, 1986 at Our Lady of Refuge.

PAOLO CRIMI Funeral Mass: November 19, 1986 at Our Lady of the Rosary.

SR. MARY MAGDALENE JUAREZ Funeral Mass: November 19, 1986 at Little Flower Haven Chapel.



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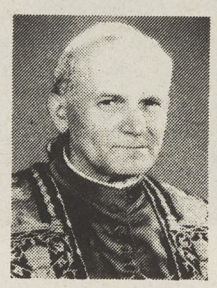

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OUR GIFT TO YOU This Christmas you'll be remembered in the Midnight Mass in Bethlehem. The celebrant, Archbishop James J. Beltritti, will offer the Mass for the members and benefactors of this association . . . How better can we say thank you?

In 18 mission countries (where Catholics, though few, are mostly of the Eastern Rites) the Holy Father helps millions because you read this column and respond with love. Blind boys in the Gaza Strip (not one of them Christian) are learning life-giving skills at the Pontifical Mission Center for the Blind. Victims of leprosy are cared for by native priests and sisters in India. The poor are fed, in body and soul, in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Ethiopia. The Good News of the Gospel is shared, thanks to you . . . This season especially, won't you remember the missions in your prayers? Our priests and sisters depend on you. They ask the Christ Child to bless you always.

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CBN scores high in recent violence study

Tuned In
By James Breig
T.V. Review

If your teen-age child is looking for an example of irony to use in a high school course, consider the following:

The National Coalition on Television Violence (NCTV) has recently studied a network and found its shows to have scored high on the NCTV scale of violence. Who's the culprit? The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), which bills itself as "the family entertainer."

It isn't the religious programming on CBN that caught NCTV's eye and ire; it was the old TV series which CBN has started to run, like "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," "Rifleman" and "Gunsmoke." NCTV analyzed those shows for two weeks and found them not only violent but also antithetical to the Christian tenets of "love your enemy" and "do good to him who persecutes you."

Here are some of the negatives from the NCTV study:

• "CBN action programming averaged almost five instances of alcohol consumption per hour."

• "In 15 episodes of 'Man from U.N.C.L.E.,' the two heroes killed 48 of their enemies, attempt to kill another 14 and knocked 61 unconscious. (This series) was singled out as a prime example of gratuitous violence."

• "These programs made no attempt to teach to love one's enemy or to resist evil with good. . . . CBN's most popular programs teach that violence is almost always needed to resolve conflicts and that it works very well."

A spokesman for CBN told the National Catholic News Service that the study "lacks credibility. Westerns are part of the Americana. . . . 'The Rifleman' has many touching episodes where (the hero) teaches his son how to relate to people and teaches him moral values."

Regardless of whom you believe in that particular dispute, there is increasing evidence that watching violent programs on any network has an effect on you. The folks at the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania have been analyzing TV for two decades and their latest study found that watching four or more hours of TV daily leads people "to express a heightened sense of living in a mean world of danger and mistrust, alienation and gloom."

The results are not difficult to understand. If you see enough TV people being mugged, slugged and plugged, you can easily begin to wonder when your turn is coming. The study found the viewers see 16 violent acts, including two murders, during each evening's primetime viewing. Multiply that by the number of days in a year and years you've watched the tube. Scary, isn't it?

If you can get your kids away from the TV, don't breathe a sigh of relief. NCTV is also critical of Garbage Pail Kids and Madball trading cards which feature "decapitated girls, axe-murdering boys, a young female being pulverized in a blender . . . human skulls chopped open."

NCTV also objects to war toys and other products, such as toy laser guns, camouflage sheets, "A-Team" cereal and lunch boxes featuring Rambo.

"An in-depth education in intense and sadistic violence has become a standard part of growing up in America," said Dr. Thomas Radecki, NCTV research director. "This year, the average four- to eight-year-old will watch some 250 episodes of war cartoons and 800 ads for war toys. This is the equivalent of 22 days of classroom instruction in exciting pro-war entertainment."

As you choose your child's entertainment and Christmas gifts, you might want to consider what NCTV has to say.

(I've listed in a few recent columns some Catholic-oriented TV programming and each mention stirs up more examples. Two of the latest are "Lives of the Saints" and "The Answer is Love." The former are videotapes about such saints as Francis, Anthony and Teresa of Avila. For information, write Lives of the Saints, St. Jude Chapel, 1521 Main St., Dallas, TX 75201.

("The Answer is Love" is part of the radio-TV ministry of Jesuit Father Gene Jakubek, a Milwaukee-based priest. He's been doing radio and TV for a quarter-century, and is seen in various parts of the country via syndication and the Eternal Word Television Network. For more info, write him at Jesuit Seminary Guild, 3601 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53216.)

James Breig is the editor of ***The Evangelist,*** *newspaper of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y. His column on TV appears regularly in this newspaper.*

NCC urges public action to cut violence in media

By Tracy Early

CHICAGO (NC) — The National Council of Churches has called for public action to reduce the prevalence of violence, particularly violent sexual material, in movies, television and home video.

While reaffirming the council's traditional opposition to censorship, it added a new element in calling for intervention by government to protect the public interest with "responsible regulation."

The move came in unanimous adoption of a policy statement Nov. 6 by the NCC governing board in Chicago. It completed a process that began in 1983 with appointment of a study commission headed by the Rev. James Wall, a United Methodist who is editor of Christian Century magazine. A preliminary version of the policy document, which will now be the basis for NCC resolutions and staff activity, was discussed at a previous governing board meeting in New Orleans.

"We support industry self-regulation as a means of solving many of the problems related to violence in the media," the NCC said. "But we believe that self-regulation can be only a partial solution, because without some governmental oversight the industry's self-interests will take precedence over the public interest."

Children, it said, are especially threatened by violence in the media. "We believe children should legally be barred from theater showings of films deemed unsuitable for them," the policy document said. "Parents should be helped to avoid the showing of that same material in their homes via television, cable and videocassette. At the same time, broadcasters should be required to make available regularly scheduled programming to enlighten and entertain children."

The NCC said, "Gratuitous violence, and especially exploitative sexual violence, must not be allowed in homes without clear and advance information to viewers as to the nature of the material. Also, viewer control over what is seen by children should be guaranteed."

The council urged churches to undertake educational and promotional efforts to aid viewers and particularly parents in countering media violence. And it advised the industry itself to carry out voluntary reforms as a way of avoiding pressures that might threaten First Amendment freedoms.

But Congress and the Federal Communications Commission were also urged to take a more assertive role. The NCC document called on them to study and publicize the effects of media violence, require broadcasters to warn audiences about program violence, reinstate processes for ascertaining community views and require cable TV companies to "provide means by which parents may exercise their right to prevent their children from viewing programs deemed unsuitable."

The NCC declared agreement with those researchers who have concluded that media violence stimulates violent behavior.

"The conclusion that media violence encourages antisocial and aggressive behavior is consistent with accepted theories about the nature of social learning," the NCC said.

"Laboratory studies show that violent sexual material stimulates aggression toward women; also, violent material stimulates sexual violence." It urged special monitoring of music video that "combines teen idols with erotic material and violence in a repetitive context."

The National Council of Churches includes 32 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox bodies with some 40 million people.

Christmas program

Mary and Joseph welcome the poor shepherds and wisemen who have come to pay homage to the newborn king in Family Theater's Christmas production, "The Promise." The drama details events surrounding the birth of Christ with a special narration by Bing Crosby. It will air Dec. 14 at 6:30 a.m. on KCST-TV Channel 39.

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Around the Diocese

Sunday Mass, a Catholic Liturgy for Television
Nov. 30, 7 a.m.
Channel 39
Paulist Father Peter Abdella Celebrant

San Diego — Central

"Advent Watch," with Spiritual Ministry for Adults team, Dec. 2, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 1638 Corsica St. Donation: $20. Call: 297-9380.

"Room at the Inn" Christmas party. Nativity sets to be displayed at three homes, Dec. 2, 7-9:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Ladies of Charity. Donation: $35. Proceeds to be used to purchase playground equipment for new St. Vincent de Paul Shelter. More: 465-3436 or 460-0889.

Christmas fair and boutique, Dec. 6-7, Blessed Sacrament parish hall. Hours: Sat. 1-7 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Women's Club.

Organ recital, by Andrew S. Jongsma, organist and choir director of Corpus Christi Church in Bonita, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Church. Selections will include works by Clerambault, Buxtehude, Bach, Langlais and Karg-Elert.

"Advent Warning" from Prophets by Spiritual Ministry for Adults, Dec. 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 1638 Corsica St. $20 for series. Reservations: 279-9380.

La Jolla Deanery, DCCW, meeting, Dec. 9, Nazareth Retirement Home, 6333 Rancho Mission Road. Mass at 11:30 a.m.; Christmas party for residents follows. Please bring a gift and a box lunch. Reservations: 274-7177 or 272-6191.

Use of the lectionary for growth and catechesis, a workshop to prepare for Christmas and Epiphany, Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Presentor: Benedictine Fr. Paschal Cheline. Blessed Sacrament parish hall. $8 pre-registration; $10 at the door. Sponsored by the Office of Catechetical Ministry, Adult Catechesis. Details: 574-6334.

Mission Basilica Ladies Guild Christmas Party, Dec. 14, after 8 a.m. Mass at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala. Reservations: 571-5786.

Tridentine Latin Mass, Sundays and holydays, 9 a.m., Holy Cross Chapel. Celebrant: Msgr. Tullio Andreatta. Confessions and rosary precede Mass. Info: 298-8763.

PATRONS, a Catholic organization for separated, divorced and widowed, meets second and fourth Sundays, 6 p.m., St. Therese Church hall. Group offers activities, companionship and support. Details: 292-8945 or 749-7155.

Catholic Alumni Club, a diocesan-approved organization for single, college-educated Catholic men and women; group has social, religious, cultural, charitable, and recreational activities. More: 295-7000 ext. 258.

Sounds of Ireland may be heard Sat. afternoons, 3:30 p.m., on KMJC-91 (A.M.). Hosted by Dan Sorahan. Details: 276-5974.

Single Again, Mission San Diego de Alcala, a support group for separated, divorced, and widowed Catholics, meets every other Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., La Sala Auditorium, San Diego Mission. More: 280-9225.

Cursillo Singles, a group for singles (separated, divorced, widowed, never married) of all ages, meets Tuesdays, 7:15-9:30 p.m., Cathedral Club, corner of Third and Beech. Group's focus is on spirituality — to share the Christ that dwells within each of us. Call: 560-7498.

STALPAR Club, for Catholic widowed and never married men and women over 35, meets first Sunday of the month, 4:30 p.m., St. Vincent Church hall, Mission Hills. Meeting followed by dinner. More: 295-4524.

Adorers wanted, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Holy Spirit Church, 2725 55th St. Info: 264-0896.

Catholic Young Adult Downtown Ministry seeks volunteers, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. in front of the Main Post Office, 8th Ave. and E St., Downtown. Volunteers distribute food, love and clothing to the homeless. Call: 238-0378 or 549-3225.

Volunteer tutors needed at St. Vincent de Paul Shelter, Thursdays 7-9 p.m. Info: 238-0378, 566-1416.

Catholic Singles Club invites singles ages 21-40 to join them in various activities including dinners, dances and sporting events. For info, write CSC, P.O. Box 80123, San Diego, CA. 92138.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena, Monday, 7 p.m., Mission San Diego de Alcala. Call: 283-7319.

San Diego — North

The Spiritual Direction of St. John of the Cross with Fr. Dennis R. Graviss, O.Carm. S.T.D., a professor of spirituality and theology, Nov. 29, 9:30 a.m., Benedictine Convent. Mass at 3 p.m. Fee: $10. Sponsored by San Diego Lay Carmelite Communities. Details: 583-8487 or 222-0243.

Day of recollection, Nov. 30, 2-5 p.m., St. Agnes parish center, Loma Portal. Fee: $5. Mass at 6 p.m. Day to focus on "spiritual direction of St. John of the Cross." Sponsored by San Diego Lay Carmelite Communities. Info: 583-8487 or 222-0243.

"The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi to be performed by the San Diego Sinfonietta, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Saint Brigid parish, Pacific Beach.

Renewal through prayer, Nov. 30-Dec. 6 (first week of Advent), St. Brigid parish, Pacific Beach. By Fr. Joe Glynn, OCD. Morning session at 10 a.m.; evening session at 7:30 p.m.

"The Sunday Nights of Advent," an adult education series, Sundays, Nov. 30-Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart parish, Ocean Beach. Info: 224-0475.

First Saturday Mass, in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, Dec. 6, 7:45 a.m., Church of St. Mary Magdalene. More: 276-3693.

Czechoslovakian Mass, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Benedictine Convent, Clairemont. Celebrant: Jesuit Fr. Jaroslav Popelka. Info: 295-1718.

Single Again, a support group for separated, divorced and widowed Catholics, meeting, Dec. 8, following Mass, St. Mary Magdalene parish hall. Open discussion. Call: 272-5365.

Mass for peace with justice in Northern Ireland, Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m., St. Catherine Laboure, Clairemont. Rosary at 5:15 p.m. Dinner and Irish party video follow. Reservations due by Dec. 6. Call: 277-6316.

Holiday bazaar, Dec. 6-7, Our Mother of Confidence parish, University City. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Featuring handmade gifts, home-baked goods, refreshments and games. More: 453-9671.

Early Music Ensemble of San Diego to perform music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m., Saint Brigid parish, Pacific Beach.

North County

North American Conference of Separated, Divorced, and Remarried Catholics, a weekly support group, meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m., St. James parish, Solana Beach. Details: 433-9176.

"How to Become a Catholic Even Though You Are One," an adult education program offered each Tuesday, 9 a.m. or 7:30 p.m., Resurrection parish, Escondido. Conducted by Sr. Mary Lou Carlson. Info: 747-6187.

Retreat for recovering alcoholics, Nov. 28-30, Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center. Leader: Fr. Jerry Calkins. More: 757-3659.

Christmas mart, Nov. 30, after Masses at St. Mary Church, Oceanside. Sponsored by Stella Maris, Y.L.I. Proceeds benefit Brother Benno's Kitchen, bishop's fund for seminarians and Life Savers.

Family Quarterly Communion for Stella Maris, no. 183, YLI, Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m. Mass, St. Mary Church, Oceanside. Mass to be offered for respose of the soul of Mary Mikloszic, mother of Margaret Yossa, YLI past president.

Arts and crafts sale, Dec. 3-4, Sears Savings Bank on South Rancho Santa Fe Rd. Sponsored by St. Mark parish Catholic Women's Guild. Featuring needlework, ceramics and craft items. Call: 727-5742.

Christmas dinner/dance, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Sponsored by St. James Catholic Community. Call: 755-7669.

South Bay

Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Church of the Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista. For sign up, call 422-2100 or 425-5578.

"Glory of Christmas" at Crystal Cathedral, a bus trip by Corpus Christi parish, Dec. 2. $28. More: 479-3377.

East County

Monthly social, St. Louise de Marillac Altar and Rosary Society, every third Thursday, 1-4 p.m.

Monthly luncheon every second Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Santa Sophia parish auditorium. $3.50 donation. Sponsored by parish Ladies' Inspirational Friendship Experience. Reservations: 444-7190, 466-7593.

Luncheon and style show, Dec. 6, noon, Knights of Columbus, San Miguel Council Hall, Washington at Lemon Grove Ave., Lemon Grove. Presented by Ladies of Columbus. Doors open at 11 a.m. Donation: $10. Reservations: 469-1139 or 442-2330.

U.S.D.

"M.A.S.H. Night," with Actor Larry Linville, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Camino Theatre. Free. Presented by Associated Students. Call: 260-4802.

"Infancy Narratives," a study of the birth and early years of Jesus by Rev. Jack Lindquist, M.Div., Dec. 4, 11, 18, 7-8:30 p.m., Salomon Lecture Hall, DeSales Hall. $25 at the door. An Institute for Christian Ministries course. More: 260-4784.

USD Symphony Orchestra Concert, Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Camino Theatre. Concert pianists Fr. Nicolas Reveles and Irvin King to perform solos. Admission: $5 general; $2 seniors and students. Info: 260-4600 ext. 4427.

Medieval Christmas play, presented by USD's English Department, Campus Ministry and the Old Globe Theatre, Dec. 11-13, 7:30 p.m., Founders Chapel. Free. Details: 260-4600.

Items for this column must be received in writing, on official stationery, by noon the Friday before publication on Friday of the following week. We can not accept items via telephone. Announcements will be published as space permits. Mail to: Around the Diocese, *Southern Cross*, P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, Calif. 92138.

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Jóvenes pueden devolver amor a la familia

Por Verónica García

SAN DIEGO — Jóvenes que asistieron al taller sobre "La Familia" durante el Día de la Juventud se dieron cuenta de que ellos pueden ser las cadenas que unen a sus familias con Dios.

La plática fue entre cuatro en español ofrecidas el 19 de noviembre en el Community Concourse. Unos 1,600 jóvenes asistieron a la reunión que tuvo el tema de "La Buena Nueva Eres Tú." La Oficina de la Juventud de la diócesis patrocinó el día.

Cada miembro de la familia reacciona de una manera diferente a los problemas que a veces trae "la oscuridad" al hogar, dijo el Padre Jesuita Anastasio Rivera, superior de la comunidad jesuita de la Diócesis de Orange y director del apostolado para los hispanos en Los Angeles.

Muchas veces los jóvenes, que se sienten más y más indefensos y solos, prefieren salir de sus hogares en vez de tratar de resolver los problemas de la familia, dijo.

El padre dijo que los jóvenes deben buscar lo que tengan en común con los otros miembros de la familia, sugiriendo la vida, la gracia y Dios como ejemplos.

Notó que su audencia estaba a la edad en que habían comenzado a sentirse atraídos a otros, especialmente al sexo opuesto. Los jóvenes tienen que compartir el amor con sus familias también. Tenemos que "devolver el cariño a la familia hispana que es tradicionalmente cariñosa," dijo.

"Está en sus manos si el amor va volver a su familia," dijo el Padre Rivera. Sugirió que podían llevar flores a sus familiares para mostrar su cariño por ellos.

Dijo que no deberían tardar en expresar su amor porque la muerte puede llegar y robarles de la oportunidad de hacerlo.

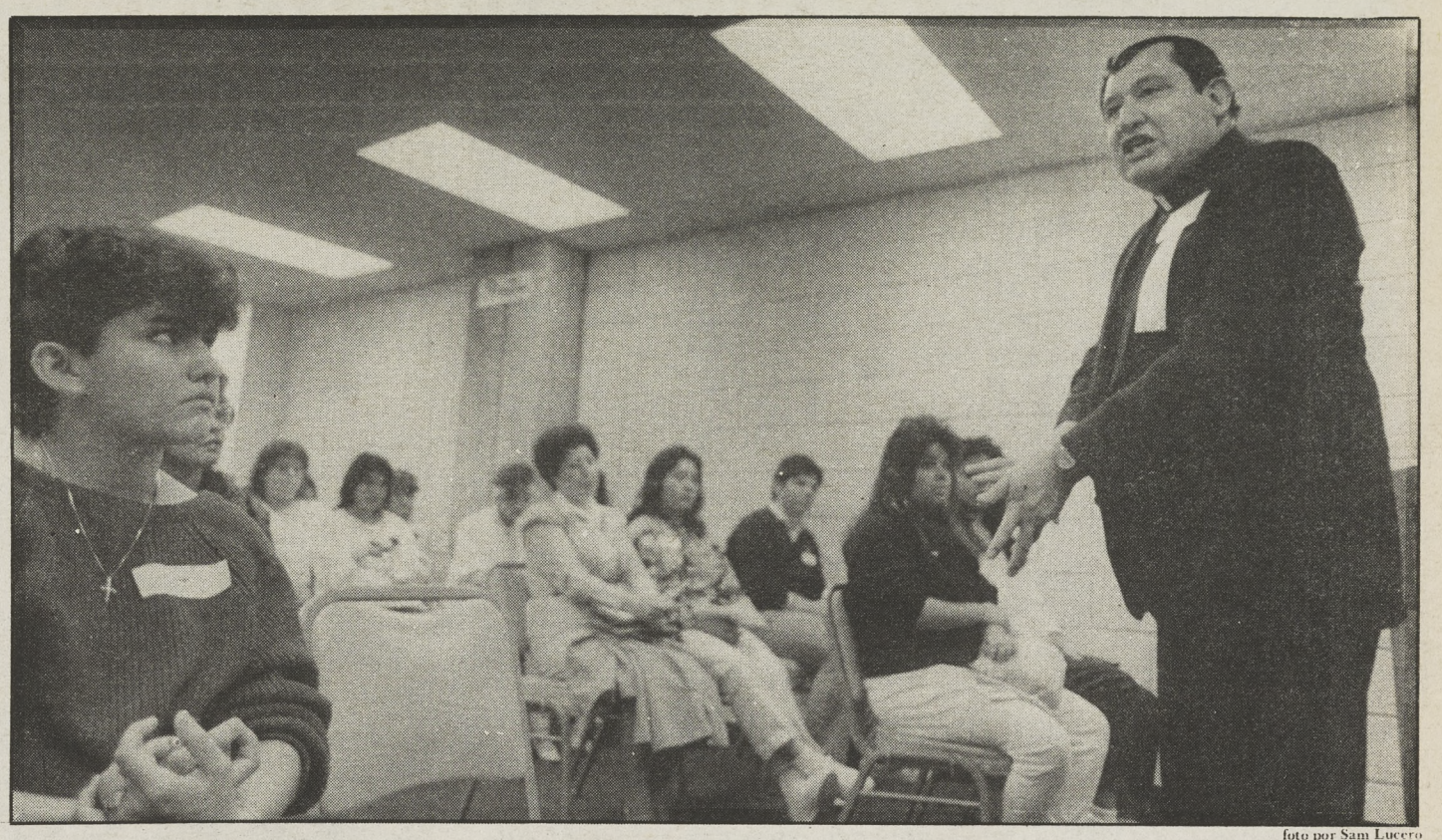

foto por Sam Lucero

El Padre Jesuita Anastasio Rivera dice que los jóvenes tienen que devolver el cariño a la familia.

Nada pasa ante Dios, dijo Alfredo Gámez durante su taller sobre "El Joven Hispano en los EE.UU."

"Hay cosas que debemos hacer pero no las hacemos." El no cumplir las tareas que debemos crea miedo y ansia dentro del cristiano, dijo Gámez que trabaja con *Young Life* (vida joven), un grupo sin denominación que da consejo a jóvenes hispanos en Tolleson, Arizona.

Notó que 106 horas por semana son necesarias para cumplir las necesidades humanas de trabajar, dormir y comer. Esto deja unas 62 horas adicionales cada semana. "¿Qué hacemos con este tiempo?" preguntó.

Los jóvenes deben usar este tiempo estudiando y preparándose para el futuro. "Si no pensamos en lo que vamos hacer pasado mañana, cuando llegue no vamos a tener nada," dijo Gámez.

La Bíblia dice que es solo "del sudor de la frente" que una persona puede obtener las necesidades de la vida y más, dijo, notando que las necesidades básicas de la vida cuestan mucho dinero. Dijo que los jóvenes deben considerar el tiempo que sus padres tomaron para obtener lo que poseen.

El lograr y el fracasar están establecidos por la ley, dijo Gámez. "No fracasamos porque somos mexicanos, sino porque no pensamos ni queremos trabajar."

Revisó una lista de 31 razones por las cuales fracasa la gente, notando que para tener éxito es necesario hacer lo opuesto de estas. Entre ella están la falta de un objetivo bien definido, insuficiente educación, la falta de auto-disciplina y tardanza.

Los jóvenes deben pedirle a Dios que les ayude a conquistar estos obstáculos para tener éxito en la vida," dijo Gámez.

Obispo disputa el papel de la Iglesia en legalización

WASHINGTON (NC) — El papel de la Iglesia en el programa de legalización de los extranjeros "podría tener inferencias graves para la Iglesia, desgastando la confianza y la verosimilitud de que disfruta ahora," advirtió el Obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, Nuevo México.

"La posibilidad de que se usen erróneamente los registros confidenciales es grande, y podría resultar en verdad en un requisito para identificar a los casos susceptibles de deportación," dijo el Obispo Ramírez en una declaración que presentó al Obispo Anthony J. Bevilacqua, de Pittsburgh, presidente del Comité Supervisor de los Servicios de Migración y Refugiados de los obispos estadounidenses.

El Obispo Ramírez leyo la declaracion en alta voz y la entregó al Obispo Bevilacqua en una recepción informal para los obispos hispanos durante la reunión general de los obispos estadounidenses en Washington, entre el 10 y el 13 de noviembre.

La oficina de los Servicios de Migración y Refugiados de la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos coordinará una gestión católica nacional para proporcionar a los extranjeros los ajustes de situación que se hicieron posibles a tenor de las disposiciones del proyecto de ley sobre inmigración aprobado por el Congreso en octubre último.

El Obispo Ramirez indicó en una entrevista que no se opone completamente a la involucración de la Iglesia, pero que le gustaría tener la seguridad de que la información obtenida por los trabajadores religiosos para determinar si los extranjeros ilegales son elegibles para la legalización no se utilizará para deportarles.

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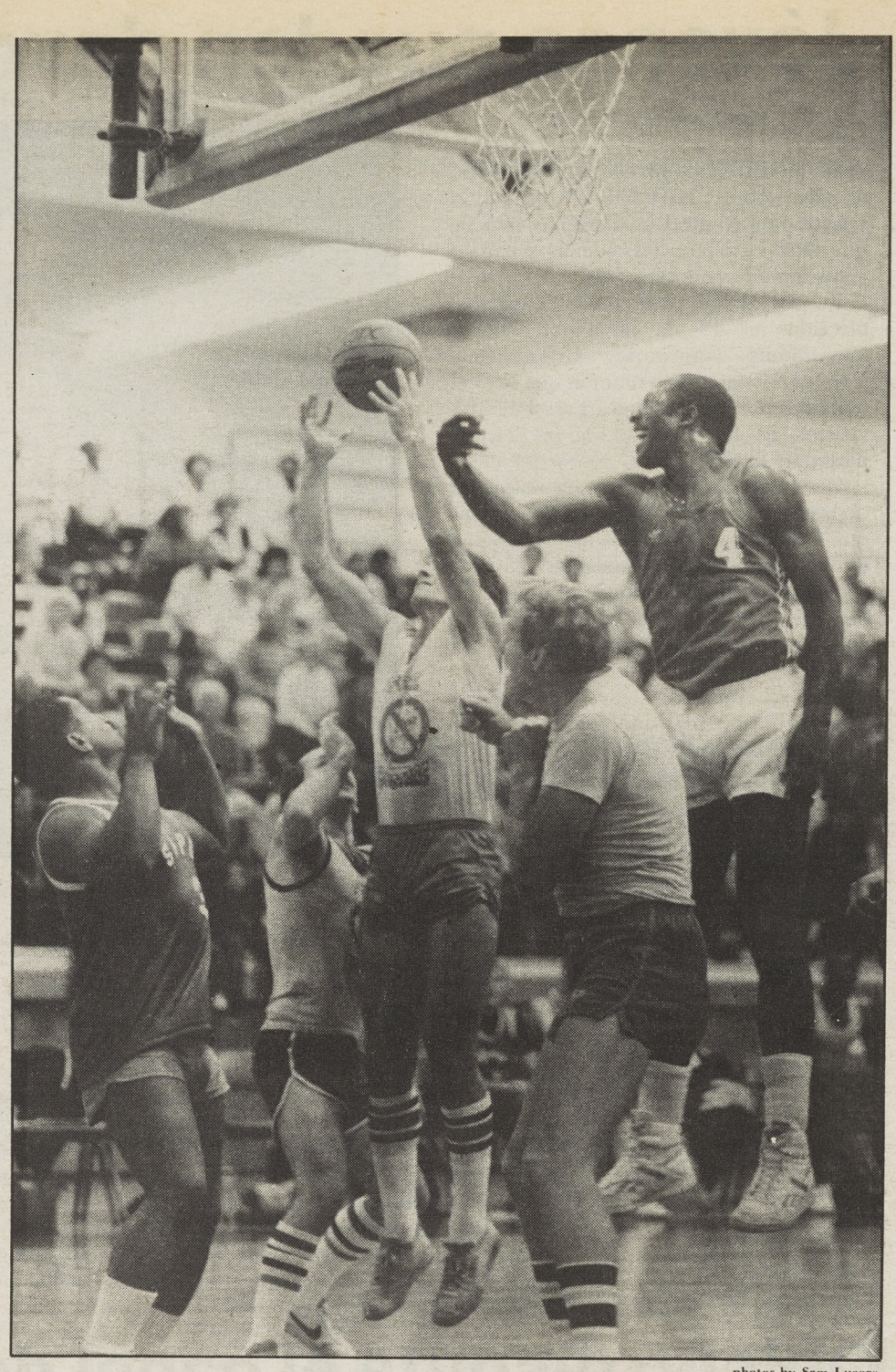
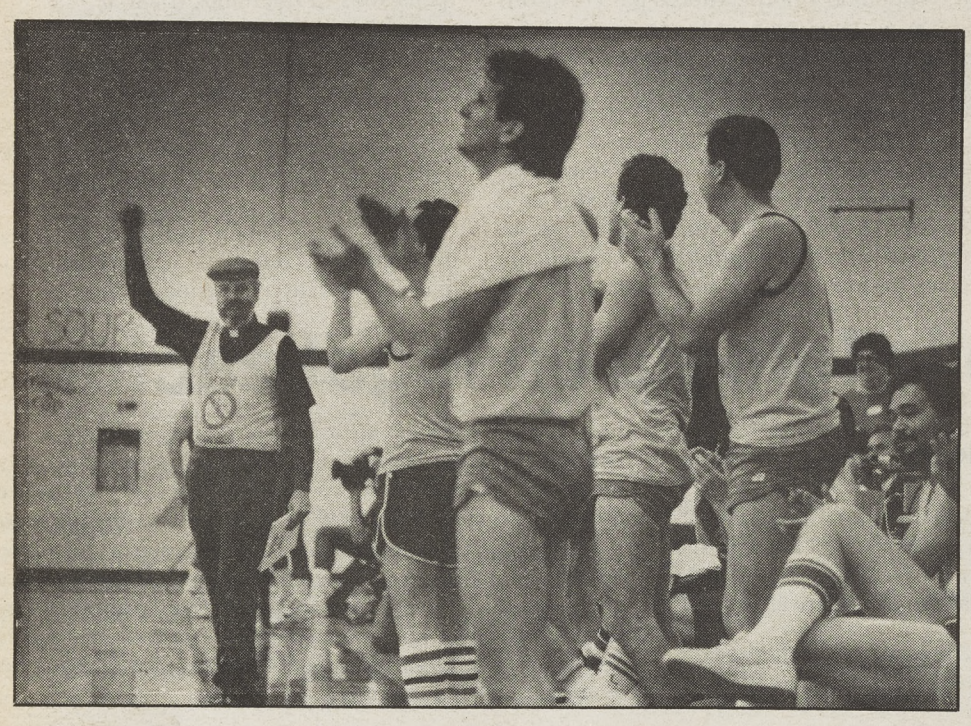


photos by Sam Lucero

Priests perform miracle, defeat police

A last second basket by Don 'Monsignor' Kojis gave San Diego's Catholic priests a 69-68 victory over the city's police squad in the fifth annual 'Priests vs. Police Basketball Game' benefiting the San Diego Organizing Project. An aggressive offense — as displayed by Jesuit Father Robert Fambrini, right, going up against John Chaney — allowed the priests to claim their second consecutive championship title. Coach/Father Douglas Regin cheers on his squad, below, and accepts the championship trophy from master of ceremonies Larry Himmel, above.



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The Rev. Dennis Mikulanis, S.T.D., Associate
The Rev. LeRoy Calkins, Sunday Assistant
Carl Shelton, Deacon — Sr. Margaret Kelly, O.P.
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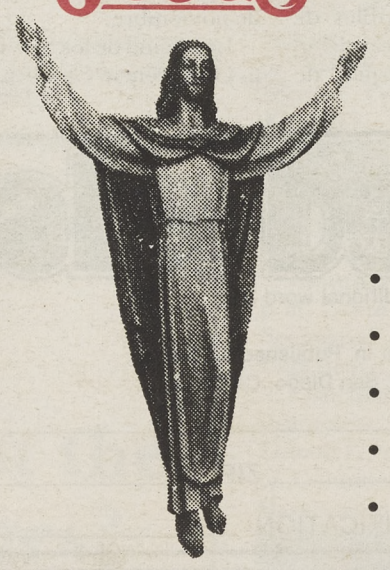

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